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ABSTRACT

Key aspects of P.L. 99-457, the Education of the Handicapped Act Amendments of 1986, affecting handicapped infants, toddlers, and preschoolers from birth to age 5 are summarized. Presented in a question answer format the information digest addresses the following questions: What children are eligible for early intervention services? Are these services currently available? (a timeline for implementation is provided); What services must be provided? What must the Individual Family Service Plan include? How can a child be referred for early intervention services? When must states provide services to children ages 3 through 5? What type of services must be provided to children ages 3 through 5? How can a child be referred for preschool services? Also provided is a list, with telephone numbers, of the state lead agencies responsible for overall administration of the program. (DB)

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DIGEST #450

PRESCHOOL SERVICES FOR CHILDREN WITH HANDICAPS

On October 8, 1986, President Ronald Reagan signed P.L. 99-457, the Education of the Handicapped Act Amendments of 1986. This new law brought about significant changes for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers from birth to 5 with handicaps and provides early intervention services and preschool programs for these children.

EARLY INTERVENTION

What children are eligible for early intervention services?

Children from birth through 2 years of age who are developmentally delayed (criteria to be determined by each state), or with conditions that typically result in delay, or (at state discretion) are at risk of substantial developmental delay are eligible for services.

Are these services currently available?

The services vary from state to state. Most states are in the process of phasing in the program. If all states continue to participate in the program, the following components and services must be provided by each state:

1987-1988: The Governor must ***designate a lead agency.*** There is state discretion with respect to which agency is designated for overall administration of the program. The Governor must also ***establish an Interagency Coordinating Council*** composed of relevant agencies, consumers, and providers. This Council is to assist in the development and implementation of state applications, as well as assist in interagency agreements and the identification of resources, and is to otherwise advise the state. In some states the Council also serves as the lead agency.

1989-1990: The state must ***adopt a public policy*** which provides all of the components of a statewide system for providing early intervention services to all eligible infants and toddlers.

1990-1991: The state must demonstrate that it has in effect a statewide system for providing early intervention services. For all eligible children, the state ***must conduct multidisciplinary assessments, develop individualized family service plans, and make available case management services.***

1991 and all succeeding years: The state must ***make available*** to all eligible handicapped infants and toddlers within the state ***appropriate early intervention services.***

What services must be provided?

If a state chooses to participate in this program, early intervention services for each eligible child must include:

- a multidisciplinary assessment.
- a written Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) developed by a multidisciplinary team and the child's parents.
- services designed to meet developmental needs which may include special education, speech and language pathology and audiology, occupational therapy, physical therapy, psychological services, parent and family training and counseling services, transition services, medical services for diagnostic purposes, and health services necessary to enable the child to benefit from other early intervention services.
- case management services must be provided for every eligible child and his or her parents.
- qualified personnel to provide all services.
- a system for the establishment and maintenance of standards, certification, and licensing policies.
- services provided at no cost to parents except where federal or state law provides for a system of payments by parents, including provision for a schedule of sliding fees.

What must the Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP) include?

Each plan must address the needs of ***both*** the child and the family. The IFSP must contain:

- a statement of the child's present levels of development (cognitive, speech/language, psychosocial, motor, and self help).
- a statement of the family's strengths and needs relating to enhancing the child's development.
- a statement of major outcomes expected to be achieved for the child and family.
- the criteria, procedures, and timelines for the determining progress.
- the specific early intervention services necessary to meet the unique needs of the child and family including the method, frequency, and intensity of service.
- the projected dates for the initiation of services and expected duration.
- the name of the case manager.
- procedures for transition from early intervention into the preschool program. The IFSP must be evaluated at least once a year, and must be reviewed every 6 months or more often where appropriate.

How can a child be referred for early intervention services?

For infants and toddlers, ages birth through 2, this process will vary in each state. Until each state establishes a referral system, the lead agency in each state would be an appropriate starting point. This digest includes a listing of the lead agency in each state.

PRESCHOOL

When must states provide services to children ages 3 through 5?

By school year 1990-1991, all states applying for P.L. 94-142 funds will have to assure that they are providing a free appropriate public education to all handicapped children ages 3 through 5.

EC 202833

What types of services must be provided to children ages 3 through 5?

The services will be administered through the state education agency (SEA) and local education agencies (LEA). However, SEAs and LEAs may contract with other programs, agencies, and providers in order to provide a range of service models. The committee report affirms variations in length of school day and range and variety of preschool programs, examples include part-day home-based, and part or full-day center-based.

The report also states that family services play an important role in preschool programs and that whenever appropriate and to the extent desired by the parents, the preschooler's Individualized Education Program (IEP) will include instruction for parents.

How can a child be referred for preschool services?

All states will offer preschool services through the Special Education Division of the local school systems.

STATE LEAD AGENCY

Alabama	Department of Education	(205) 261-5099
Alaska	Department of Health and Social Services	(907) 465-3037
Arizona	Department of Economic Security	(602) 255-5775
Arkansas	Department of Human Services	(501) 371-3419
California	Department of Developmental Services	(916) 323-4828
Colorado	Department of Education	(303) 866-6710
Connecticut	Department of Education	(203) 566-6584
Delaware	Department of Public Instruction	(302) 736-5471
Washington, D.C.	Department of Human Services	(202) 727-5930
Florida	Department of Education	(904) 488-6830
Georgia	Department of Human Resources	(404) 894-6329
Hawaii	Department of Health	(808) 732-3197
Idaho	Department of Health and Welfare	(208) 334-5531
Illinois	Board of Education	(217) 782-6601
Indiana	Department of Mental Health	(317) 232-7879
Iowa	Department of Education	(515) 281-5614
Kansas	Department of Health and Environment	(913) 296-1316
Kentucky	Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation	(502) 564-7703
Louisiana	Department of Education	(504) 342-3675
Maine	Department of Educational and Cultural Services	(207) 289-5950
Maryland	Governor's Office for Children and Youth	(301) 225-1290
Massachusetts	Department of Public Health	(617) 727-5090
Michigan	Department of Education	(517) 373-8483
Minnesota	Interagency Planning Project for Young Children with Handicaps	(612) 296-7032
Mississippi	Board of Health	(601) 960-7613
Missouri	Department of Elementary and Secondary Education	(314) 751-2965
Montana	Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services	(406) 444-2995
Nebraska	Department of Education	(402) 471-2471
Nevada	Department of Human Resources	(702) 885-4730
New Hampshire	Department of Education	(603) 271-3493
New Jersey	Department of Education	(609) 292-0147
New Mexico	Health and Environment Department	(505) 827-0118
New York	Department of Health	(518) 474-3664
North Carolina	Department of Human Resources	(919) 733-3654
North Dakota	Department of Human Services	(701) 224-2768
Ohio	Department of Health	(614) 466-3263
Oklahoma	Department of Education	(405) 751-0065
Oregon	Department of Human Resources	(503) 378-2429
Pennsylvania	Office of Mental Retardation	(717) 783-5758
Rhode Island	Department of Special Education	(401) 456-8699
South Carolina	Department of Health and Environmental Control	(803) 734-4610
South Dakota	Department of Education and Cultural Affairs	(605) 773-5239
Tennessee	Department of Education	(615) 741-2851
Texas	Department of Health	(512) 465-2671
Utah	Department of Health	(801) 538-6161
Vermont	Department of Education	(803) 828-3141
Virginia	Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Service	(804) 786-3710
Washington	Department of Social and Health Services	(206) 753-4983
West Virginia	Department of Health	(304) 348-0627
Wisconsin	Division of Health	(608) 266-2670
Wyoming	Department of Health and Social Services	(307) 777-7115

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